

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 12-14, 17 and 18 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claims 4 and 6-8 have been cancelled without prejudice.


Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections and solely to expedite issuance, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-3, 12-14, 17 and 18 are allowed. These claims have not been amended herein.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by Claims 1-3, 12-14, 17 and 18 and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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